

## WC SAFE

Wayne County Sexual Assault  
Forensic Examiner's Program

April 23rd, 2018

House Law and Justice Committee  
Michigan House of Representatives  
PO Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Members of the House Law and Justice Committee,

I would first like to thank you for taking the time to focus on such an important issue, which affects so many people. It is my pleasure, as the Executive Director of WC SAFE, to support this sexual assault bill package in it's entirety overall.

WC SAFE is the only comprehensive, sexual assault center in Southeast Michigan. We provide medical-forensic examinations, crisis intervention, counseling, advocacy, expert witness testimony, prevention and community education. As a leader at the local, state and national levels, we have worked to develop what is considered best practice in provision of these services to survivors of sexual assault and violence. We are the largest agency of our kind in the state of Michigan and considered one of the largest in the nation. We applaud the state's efforts to support sexual assault survivors, but caution that it is not done too hastily, as to result in unintended consequences. The inclusion of content experts and service providers in your communities, to assist in putting this important legislation in place, is very strongly encouraged.

The only questions that came up for me that I ask you to consider are:

- 1) HB No. 5785 Section 2, subsection k, vi – critical thinking skills. I agree that critical thinking skills are imperative, really in life, the mandate that they are included in this type of training leaves the door open for it to potentially taught that if you use critical thinking skills, you won't get raped. This adds to victim-blaming, and I am concerned that it could lead to unintended consequences that look quite different from the intended

outcome. Please review this piece and consider further clarification around the language as to avoid this potential issue.

- 2) HB No. 5794 Section 1 and repeated again through the bill. Why are even allowing there to be 10 or 20 images of child sexually abusive material? There should be a zero tolerance policy and so I would advocate for that number to be 1 or greater.

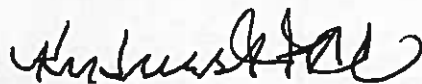
Aside from those two comments, I write this letter of support of the House Bills:

5783	5790	5797
5784	5791	5798
5785	5792	5799
5786	5793	5800
5787	5794	
5788	5795	
5789	5796	

Thank you again for your involvement in wanting to help support survivors, and work to end sexual violence in our communities.

Please let me know if I can be of any additional assistance.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Hurst, PA-C  
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